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Docket No.: 09852/0203745-US0 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Yukio Aoki

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Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: CEMENTED CARBIDE MATERIAL FOR

SURFACE COATED GEAR CUTTING TOOL

AND SURFACE COATED GEAR CUTTING

TOOL

AFFIRMATION OF PRIORITY CLAIM

Mail Stop PCT P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby claim priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 based on the following prior foreign application filed in the following foreign country on the date indicated:

Country

Application No.

Date

Japan

2003-169962

June 13, 2003

A certified copy of the aforesaid Japanese Patent Application was received by the International Bureau July 29, 2004 during the pendency of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/008557. A copy of Form PCT/IB/304 is enclosed.

Dated: December 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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